

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the binder is selected from the group of colloidal silica, polyvinyl acetate (PVA), starch adhesives, acrylates, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene oxide (PEO), ethylenevinyl acetate (EVA) and derivatives thereof.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

A3 9. (Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the powder is selected from the group of ceramic materials, such as SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , K_2O , Na_2O , CaO , Ba_2O , CrO_2 , TiO_2 , BaO , CeO_2 , La_2O_3 , MgO , ZnO , Li_2O and combinations thereof, and metals, such as alloys of gold, platinum, palladium, nickel, chromium, iron, aluminum, molybdenum, beryllium, copper, magnesium, cobalt and tin, and combinations of metals and ceramic materials.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the layers are applied with a doctor blade.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the powder is applied in dispersed form.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one layer differs in composition from the others.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

A4 15. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the powder is locally applied with a computer-controlled nozzle.

[Please amend claim 16 as follows:]

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the powders has an average particle size less than 50 nm.

[Please amend claim 17 as follows:]

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the dental element is sintered at a temperature of 400-800 °C for a period between 10 minutes and 3 hours.

[Please amend claim 19 as follows:]

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the dental element is additionally shaped by grinding, filing, polishing, sanding, blasting or treatment with a ball bed.

[Please amend claim 20 as follows:]

20. (Amended) A dental element obtainable by a method according to claim 1.

REMARKS

This amendment is being submitted to remove all multiple dependent claims which were presented during the international phase of the PCT for this application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the preliminary amendment. The attached appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

The Examiner is alerted to the fact that the claims amended herein are the same as those submitted by Applicant during the international phase of the PCT on November 5, 2001 and examined by the International Preliminary Examining Authority as part of preparing the International Preliminary Examination Report.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered and that the present application is in all respects complete and in condition for favorable consideration.